

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Suicide is the leading cause of injury death in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: More than 500 Arkansans died by suicide in 2013; and

WHEREAS: The rate of suicide in Arkansas is currently out-pacing the nation and increasing year after year; and

WHEREAS: Suicide is an urgent and serious public health and welfare problem in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: A comprehensive and coordinated approach is necessary to prevent suicide across all age and demographic groups in all areas of the state, encouraging Arkansans to make suicide prevention a shared priority for all citizens; and

WHEREAS: My Administration is committed to doing all we can to assist private, nonprofit, and faith-based entities, including without limitation coalitions, foundations, initiatives, churches, veterans groups, substance abuse recovery groups, senior adult organization, grief support groups, injury prevention groups, and other groups to enhance suicide prevention and survivor support efforts throughout Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The 90th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas established the Arkansas Suicide Prevention Council with Act 1067 in Regular Session 2015, to provide public and private leadership for suicide prevention and intervention in Arkansas and to serve as a central body on suicide prevention efforts across the state; and

WHEREAS: As we pause to raise awareness on the importance of suicide prevention, let us remember all those we have lost and the loved ones they left behind;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 30, 2015, as

SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY IN ARKANSAS

and I urge my fellow citizens to raise awareness and overcome the stigma associated with depression, mental illness and thoughts of suicide. Reminding ourselves and others that seeking treatment is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength, confirming to all that it is okay to ask for help and providing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which offers immediate assistance for all Americans (24 hours a day - 7 days a week - 365 days each year) 1-800-273-8255.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of September in the year of our Lord 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State